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(71)Applicant : OTSUKA PHARMACEUT
FACTORY INC
OTSUKA PHARMACEUT CO LTD

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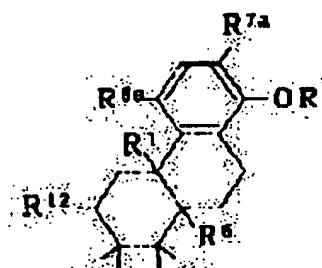
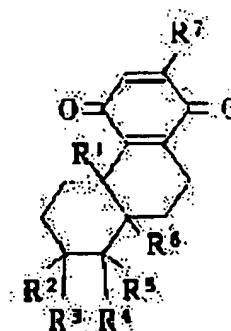
(72)Inventor : SHIBUYA MASAYUKI
SHISHIDO KOZO
GOTO KIYOTO
ONO YUKIHISA
TANIGUCHI YOSHIHIRO
ASAKUNI TAKAHIRO

(54) PHENANTHRENE DERIVATIVE

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To provide a new compound useful for treating and preventing chronic inflammatory diseases such as chronic articular rheumatism as an interleukin-inhibiting agent.

CONSTITUTION: A compound of formula I (R1, R4 are lower alkyl; R2 is formyl; R3 is hydroxy; or R2 and R3 form an oxo; R5 is H, hydroxy lower alkyl, etc.; R6 is H, or R6 and R5 form a double bond; R7 is H, lower alkyl; but when R us lower alkyl, R us not hydroxymethyl), for example, 5,8-dimethoxy-1,4a- dimethyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-4,4a,9,10-tetrahydro-2(3H)-phenanthrenone. The compound is obtained e.g. by



oxidizing a compound of formula II (R2' is R2, carboxyl, etc.; R5' is R5, formyl, etc.; R7a is lower alkyl; R8a is lower alkoxy; R12 is H, OH) with an oxidizing agent such as chromic anhydride in an inert solvent such as DMF. The compound of formula II is a new substance and is extracted and isolated from e.g. *Tripterygium wilfordii*.

LEGAL STATUS

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